

NUCLEAR SAFETY REGULATORY AND LEGISLATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

(RER/9/052) K1 New

MODEL PROJECT

CORE FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Group Activity	Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Group Training	Sub-Contracts	Misc. Comp.	TOTAL
	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	m/d	US \$	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
1997	9/0	118,300	100,000	0	6/0	18,900	0/0	0	50,160	0	0	287,860
1998	9/0	125,550	110,000	0	12/0	39,600	0/0	0	50,220	0	0	325,370

FOOTNOTE a/ FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Group Activity	Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Group Training	Sub-Contracts	Misc. Comp.	TOTAL
	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	m/d	US \$	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
1997	6/0	83,700	200,000	0	12/0	37,800	0/0	0	150,000	0	0	471,500
1998	6/0	88,200	200,000	0	12/0	39,600	0/0	0	100,000	0	0	427,800

First Year Approved: 1997

OBJECTIVES: The regional development objective is to ensure a safe supply of electricity from nuclear power plants. The project's specific aim is to bring the capabilities of nuclear regulatory authorities into conformity with international standards.

BACKGROUND: The importance of international co-operation to strengthen the nuclear safety regimes and regulatory bodies of the Central and Eastern European Countries and the countries of the Former Soviet Union has been recognised and stressed on many important bilateral and multilateral occasions. In response to requests from Member States, the IAEA initiated a regional project (RER/9/023) in 1994 aimed specifically at strengthening nuclear safety regulatory bodies. The project is now well established and forms a significant part of international programmes of co-operation and assistance. From the outset, the Agency co-operated through the G-24 mechanism with other bilateral and multilateral programmes to ensure co-ordination and complementarity. The project RER/9/023 was launched at a meeting in Kiev in April 1994, in which the status of the regulatory bodies concerned and their needs for assistance were assessed. Recommendations on the technical content of these activities were made to the Agency and have since been implemented to the extent possible. The project was reviewed at a meeting in Rez, Czech Republic, in February 1996, which recommended that the project should be continued during 1997-2000. A series of eleven training courses and workshops were organized, with 190 participants from Armenia, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Ukraine, with major contributions in the form of providing experts from Finland, France, Germany, the UK and the USA for course organisation, lecturers and training. The training courses and workshops completed to date have already contributed to increasing the effectiveness of the participating regulatory bodies and thus enhancing the safety of nuclear power plants within their jurisdiction. The project is also assisting national activities connected with the Nuclear Safety Convention. Considerable progress has been made towards meeting internationally accepted good practice, but significant problems remain in some key areas. In general, the problems arise from the requirements to re-train existing staff, and to train new staff in regulatory practices and culture as the organizations expand to fulfil their statutory duties. The staff recruited are generally technically competent but need training and experience in setting up regulatory safety standards, licensing procedures, inspection and control. The following areas have been identified in all participating countries as requiring training: - Development of nuclear safety regulations and guidance in complying with them; - Review and assessment of licensee safety analysis reports and other safety submissions as a result of the licensing process; - Conduct of regulatory inspections; - Licensing procedures for all phases of a project: siting, construction, commissioning, operation, modification and decommissioning; - Examination and certification of reactor operating staff and others who may have a significant influence on safety; - Dissemination of information to the public on the activities of the regulatory body. Initially, the project was confined to meeting the training needs of NPP personnel only, but it has become clear that training needs to be extended to radiation safety and radioactive waste safety. It has also been recommended that training should encompass research reactors and nuclear fuel cycle facilities, in view of the similarity of their licensing and regulatory procedures. The IAEA has confirmed the urgency of these needs through expert missions to the countries concerned and discussions with senior regulatory staff and government officials. The national regulatory bodies are responsible for monitoring availability of adequate numbers of staff capable of carrying out recognised regulatory functions of inspection and safety assessment without supervision and the ability of the nuclear establishments to carry out self-assessment and quality assurance of their own activities. The effectiveness of such monitoring functions can, however, be confirmed through Agency mission reports. An International Regulatory Review Team (IRRT),

which assesses and advises on all aspects of regulatory authority good practices, would provide an independent and comprehensive review of the regulatory body, but these missions are resource-intensive and expensive and are unlikely to be requested by all participating Member States.

PROJECT PLAN: Training courses and workshops for the period 1997-2000 will be in the following areas: - Regulatory Control of Nuclear Power Plants: for new and inexperienced staff, repeated if numbers warrant it; - Licensing requirements and procedures for commissioning new plants and recommissioning old plants after major modifications or refurbishing; - Regulatory Requirements for Decommissioning; - General Approach to Nuclear Safety; - Radiation Safety Harmonization: Basic Safety Standards, legislation, regulations, codes of practice; - Emergency Planning and Preparedness: in-depth training on regulatory issues and responses; - Periodic Safety Reviews: safety assessment and re-assessment methodology, seismic assessment; - Dissemination of Information to the Public/Handling the Media; - Inculcation of Safety Culture; - Training of trainers: scientific visits for those responsible for setting up training within a regulatory body. This is an umbrella project catering to the needs of the region, with the regulatory authorities from Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Ukraine participating.

NATIONAL COMMITMENT: Each participating Member State will, through its legislative processes, fully support the regulatory authority by bringing the necessary safety laws and regulations into force in good time and by making adequate provisions for the recruitment and retention of staff to maintain the regulatory body's professional competence.

AGENCY INPUT: The Agency will co-ordinate the training courses, workshops, scientific visits and fellowships. It will co-ordinate the work of experts from Member States in the planning and implementation of the events and will provide assistance, including lecturers. It will organize co-ordination and monitoring meetings to receive feedback on the effectiveness of training and to ensure that needs are being met. It will monitor the results of the technical assistance, where practical, through expert missions. IAEA Safety Standards documentation will be used throughout the project. The Agency will ensure continued liaison with G-24 programmes to avoid duplication of effort.

PROJECT IMPACT: The project will continue to make a significant contribution to the ability of the participating nuclear safety authorities to carry out their assigned regulatory functions in accordance with internationally recognised good practice, thereby promoting safety culture and public confidence in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.